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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,941	07/21/2003	Michael Xie	3000683-7035332001	7695
23639 7590 10/03/2007 BINGHAM MCCUTCHEN LLP Three Embarcadero Center San Francisco, CA 94111-4067				
EXAMINER SAN JUAN, MARTINJERIKO P				
ART UNIT 2132		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 10/03/2007		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/624,941	Applicant(s) XIE, MICHAEL	
	Examiner Martin Jeriko P. San Juan	Art Unit 2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13, 14, 17-22 and 27-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13, 14, 17-22 and 27-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/5/2007</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to Applicant's request for continued examination filed on September 11, 2007. Amendments filed on August 13, 2007 have been entered. Applicant has cancelled claims 11, 12, 15, and 16. Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 22, 27, 30, 38, 40, and 41. Claims 1-10, 13-14, 17-22, and 27-42 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed on August 13, 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-22 and 27-42 under 35 USC 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Trcka et al. [US PN 6453345 B2], previously cited Radatti et al. [US Pub No 2001/0042214 A1], and Canion et al. [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- a. Claim 32 recites the limitation "the" memory. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The parent claim to which it refers does not mention any "memory."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1. Claim 1-5, 7-9, 13-14, 17-20, 22, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trcka et al. [US PN 6453345 B2] hereinafter Trcka, and further in view of Canion et al. [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1] hereinafter Canion.

Regarding claim 1, Trcka teaches a device for managing network traffic flow, the device comprising: a first module, the first module configured to receive network traffic content [US 6453345 B2, Col 9, Ln 13-15], determine whether a protocol of the network traffic

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content matches a prescribed protocol of network traffic content that could contain content desired to be detected [US 6453345 B2, Col 15, Ln 47-52], and store the network traffic content in a stack when the protocol of the network traffic content matches the prescribed protocol [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3, Good-Data Cyclic Recorder, Bad-Data Cyclic Recorder]; and a second module associated with the stack, wherein the second module is configured to determine whether the network traffic content contains the content desired to be detected [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3, Surveillance Data Processing Module] [US 6453345 B2, Col 17, Ln 14-27].

Trcka does not explicitly teach that the modules be implemented as hardware or processor based modules.

Canion teaches a device for managing network traffic flow, specifically a network security accelerator in which various modules are implemented as multiple hardware processing modules [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Pg 10, Par 0094].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to implement the modules as hardware multi-processing modules as taught by Canion.

The modular design of Trcka enables this modification using ASIC or FPGA processors [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Fig 1C]. The suggestion/motivation would have been to improve system performance so as to enable parallel processing of data and/or communications to accelerate content delivery [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0094]. Trcka and Canion are analogous art because they are both in the field of network traffic security monitoring.

Regarding claim 2, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first processor comprises a general purpose processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0097 – “Pentium”].

Regarding claim 3, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first processor comprises an ASIC processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0119 – “ASIC”].

Regarding claim 4, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 3, wherein the ASIC processor is a semi-custom ASIC processor. It is official notice that semi-custom ASIC processors are well known in the art of utilizing ASIC processors.

Regarding claim 5, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 3, wherein the ASIC processor is a programmable ASIC processor [The examiner notes that ASIC processors are programmable.]

Regarding claim 13, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the second processor comprises an ASIC processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0119 – “ASIC”].

Regarding claim 7, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, further comprising the stack [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3, Good-Data Cyclic Recorder, Bad-Data Cyclic Recorder – These recorders are stacks.].

Regarding claim 8, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 7, wherein the stack is implemented in the first processor or in the second processor [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3, -- Both Cyclic Recorders interact with the Archival Data Processing Module and the Surveillance Data Processing Module, and as such is implemented in the first processor or in the second processor.].

Regarding claim 9, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 8, wherein the stack is configured to store the network traffic content in accordance with the protocol of the network traffic content [US 6453345 B2, Fig 6a, Fig 6b].

Regarding claim 14, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first or the second processor is further configured to flag the network traffic content when the protocol of the network traffic content matches the prescribed protocol, and send the flagged network traffic content to the memory [US 6453345 B2, Col 15, Ln 47-52].

Regarding claim 17, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 14, wherein the second processor comprises an ASIC processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0119 – “ASIC”].

Regarding claim 18, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the content desired to be detected is selected from the group consisting of a virus, a worm, a web content, a Trojan agent, an email spam, and a packet transmitted by a hacker [US 6453345 B2, Col 17, Ln 24-43].

Regarding claim 32, the combined invention of Trcka and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, further comprising the memory [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3 – “the” memory is interpreted as “a” memory].

Claim 19, 20, 22 is rejected because it contains the same subject matter since it is the method performing the device of claim 1, 9, 14.

2. Claim 6, 10, 21, 27-31, and 33-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trcka et al. [US PN 6453345 B2] hereinafter Trcka, and further in view of Radatti et al. [US Pub No 2001/0042214 A1] hereinafter Radatti, and Canion et al. [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1] hereinafter Canion.

Regarding claim 6, Trcka teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first module is further configured to send the network traffic content to a user regardless when the protocol of the network traffic content does or does not match the prescribed protocol. Trcka does not teach wherein the first module is further configured to send the network traffic content to a user only when the protocol of the network traffic content does not match the prescribed protocol.

Radatti teaches wherein a module is further configured to send the network traffic content to a user only when the protocol of the network traffic content does not match the prescribed protocol [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0036].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Trcka by configuring the first module to send the network traffic content to a user only when the protocol of the network content does not match the prescribed protocol as taught by Radatti. The suggestion/motivation for modifying would have been for having security preventive measures by having a process of intercepting suspect content that would be transparent have minimal impact on the performance of the computer and networking connections [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0037]. Trcka and Radatti are analogous art because they are both in the same field of network securities.

Trcka and Radatti does not explicitly teach that the modules be implemented as hardware or processor based modules.

Canion teaches a device for managing network traffic flow, specifically a network security accelerator in which various modules are implemented as multiple hardware processing modules [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Pg 10, Par 0094].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to implement the modules as hardware multi-processing modules as taught by Canion.

The modular design of the combined inventions of Trcka and Radatti enables this modification using ASIC or FPGA processors [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Fig 1C].

The suggestion/motivation would have been to improve system performance so as to enable parallel processing of data and/or communications to accelerate content delivery [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0094]. Trcka and Canion are analogous art because they are both in the field of network traffic security monitoring.

Regarding claim 10, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 1, wherein the first or the second processor is further configured to assemble the at least a portion of the network traffic content with the rest of the network traffic content, and transmit the network traffic content to a user when it is determined that the network traffic content does not contain the content desired to be detected [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0037 – It would have been inherent to assemble the at least a portion of the network traffic content with the rest of the network traffic content by the proscribed code scanner to achieve transparency for returning acceptable code back to the user as taught by Radatti.].

Claim 21 is rejected because it contains the same subject matter as claim 10, since it is the method performing the device of claim 10.

Regarding claim 27, Trcka teaches a device for managing network traffic flow, the device comprising: a first module, the first module configured to receive network traffic content, flag the network traffic content, send the flagged network traffic content to a module, and send a copy of the network traffic content to a second module, the second module configured to determine whether the network traffic content contains content desired to be detected; and the second module.

Trcka does not teach the module further configured to pass unflagged data to a user and prevent flagged data from being sent to the user.

Radatti teaches a module configured to pass unflagged data to a user and prevent flagged data from being sent to the user [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0036 – The proscribed code scanner providing an indicator to the cyb_protocol if the code is acceptable reads on flagging of data.].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Trcka by having a module further configured to pass unflagged data to a user and prevent flagged data from being sent to the user as taught by Radatti. The suggestion/motivation for modifying would have been for having security preventive measures by having a process of intercepting suspect content that would be

transparent have minimal impact on the performance of the computer and networking connections [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0037]. Trcka, Radatti, and Canion are analogous art because they are both in the same field of network securities.

Trcka and Radatti does not explicitly teach that the modules be implemented as hardware or processor based modules.

Canion teaches a device for managing network traffic flow, specifically a network security accelerator in which various modules are implemented as multiple hardware processing modules [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Pg 10, Par 0094].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to implement the modules as hardware multi-processing modules as taught by Canion.

The modular design of the combined inventions of Trcka and Radatti enables this modification using ASIC or FPGA processors [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Fig 1C].

The suggestion/motivation would have been to improve system performance so as to enable parallel processing of data and/or communications to accelerate content delivery [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0094]. Trcka, Radatti, and Canion are analogous art because they are both in the field of network traffic security monitoring.

Claim 28 is rejected because claim 10 contains the subject matter of claim 28.

Regarding claim 29, the combined inventions of Trcka and Radatti teaches the device of claim 27, wherein the module comprises a memory, a buffer, or at least a portion of a processor [US 6453345 B2, Fig 3].

Claim 30, 31 is rejected because it is the same subject matter as claim 27, 28.

Regarding claim 33, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 27, wherein the first processor is configured to pass a portion of the network traffic content downstream before the second processor finishes processing the network traffic content [This claim is inherent since the unflagged portion of the network traffic content is passed downstream, while the flagged portion of the network traffic content is being quarantined and analyzed/examined for "undesirable/malicious" content.].

Regarding claim 36, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 27, wherein the first processor is configured to flag the network traffic content by modifying data associated with the network traffic content or by inserting data to the network traffic content [US PN 6453345 B2, Col 15, Ln 47-54].

Claim 37, 39 is rejected because it contains the same subject matter as claim 33, 36.

Claim 40, 41 is rejected because it contains the same subject matter as claim 27, 28.

Regarding claim 42, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 40, wherein the first portion of the network traffic content is not scanned for the content that is desired to be detected [US Pub No. 2001/0042214 A1, Pg 3, Par 0036].

Regarding claim 34, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 27, wherein the first processor and the second processor are parts of a processor [It is official notice that packaging a first processor and a second processor as a single processor is well known and common in the art.].

Regarding claim 35, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the device of claim 34, wherein the processor comprises an ASIC processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0119 – “ASIC”].

Regarding claim 38, the combined invention of Trcka, Radatti, and Canion teaches the method of claim 30, wherein the second processor comprises an ASIC processor [US Pub No. 2002/0108059 A1, Par 0119 – “ASIC”].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Jeriko P. San Juan whose telephone number is 571-272-7875. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30a - 6:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MJSJ/

Martin Jeriko San Juan

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/Benjamin Lanier/

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